Docket 07-42

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NOV 19 2007

November 12, 2007

Commissioner Michael Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room 8-B201
Washington , D.C. 20554

Dear Michael :

This is just a short note to express my support once again , for the FCC to adopt a new rule that would allow arbitration when independent networks , such as the NFL Network , cannot come to an agreement with cable companies on carriage issues .

I know that you and other members of the FCC have undertaken a rulemaking proceeding (MBDocket07-42) to consider program carriage issues that relate to independent and diverse channels . Networks like the NFL Network are very popular but since they are not owned by the big cable companies they face a very difficult task in gaining exposure to their fans because the cable companies want to make their customers pay additional monthly charges for them .

You know how much our fellow South Carolinians love their sports, especially football. You and I both know what a difference $5 or $10 a month can make to hard working people of our State .Many of them want their NFL but can't afford that extra payment .

The FCC can help not only our hard working South Carolinians but hard working men and women all over America by changing its rules to facilitate appointment of an arbitrator in disputes like the one involving the NFL Network . Such a rule will help resolve these disputes quickly and with consumers' interest foremost in mind .

I hope you will join me in support of this new rule .

Sincerely,

Nick

Nick Theodore

P.S. Thank you for the great job you are doing at the FCC

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Docket 97-12

THIS IS THE DUMBEST THING
I HAVE EVER HEARD OF.

E. J. Riley
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BUSINESS

Dow Jones	Nasdaq	S&P 500
-55.19	-43.81	-14.52
12,987.55	2,584.13	1,439.18

FCC may levy new rules on cable

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission is likely to impose a new regulation on the largely unregulated cable television industry, the first of what may be more to come.

Under a proposed rule circulating at the FCC, cable companies would have to slash the price they charge smaller television programmers to lease access on spare cable channels, a move the FCC says would open up cable viewers to a wider diversity of shows.

In addition, the FCC is contemplating a national ownership cap that would prevent one company from having more than 30 percent of all cable subscribers.

FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin would like the commission to vote on what is known as the "lease access" rule by the FCC's next meeting, scheduled for Nov. 27, and is optimistic that he has the three commission votes needed for passage.

The proposed rule comes as a result of the agency's annual review of competition in the video industry.

Martin has pushed a number of actions directed toward the cable industry, notably trying to persuade cable companies to offer their channels on an a la carte basis to subscribers, instead of requiring consumers to purchase tiers of channels.

The cable companies have pushed back hard against Martin's initiatives, saying they would cripple the industry.

"In every other industry regulated by the FCC, there have been significant decreases in the price of services, such as in long-distance rates and wireless rates," Martin said. "But the one exception to that is cable rates, which have gone up almost 100 percent" over the past decade.

Central to the rules under consideration is a simple question of arithmetic: How many U.S. households pay for cable television?

If the number is 70 percent or higher, broad FCC regulations set in place by Congress more than 20 years ago can kick in, capping the growth of big companies and forcing open the marketplace to smaller competitors.

Martin would like cable subscribers to be able to buy only the channels they want. Here, he faces off against cable companies and programmers, who say such bundling is necessary to ensure a diversity of cable channels.

Popular cable channels, such as USA, effectively subsidize less-watched channels.

Cable companies say they could not afford to offer less-popular channels in an a la carte system, meaning such channels would disappear, an assertion that consumer groups such as Consumers Union dispute.